

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTEGRATION PIONEER ERNEST G. GREEN TO SPEAK AT SUPREME COURT EVENT COMMEMORATING *BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION*

LANSING, MI, May 10, 2004 – Ernest G. Green, one of the first black students to integrate the Little Rock, Arkansas Central High School, will speak at the Michigan Hall of Justice on Wednesday, May 12.

The free presentation, which begins at 2 p.m., is co-sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center and the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society to mark the 50th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision that declared school segregation illegal.

Green and eight classmates, known as the “Little Rock Nine,” were the first black students to integrate Central High School in the wake of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Green, the first African-American to graduate from the school, was the subject of a 1993 movie, “The Ernie Green Story,” produced and distributed by the Walt Disney Corporation.

Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan said the Michigan Supreme Court “wished to mark the 50th anniversary of the *Brown* decision, and what better way than to hear from someone who, at great cost to himself, advanced the goal of equality under the law.”

Green, a graduate of Michigan State University, is the managing director of public finance for Lehman Brothers’ office in Washington, D.C. An authority on African affairs, Green was appointed by President Bill Clinton as chairman of the African Development Foundation. Green also served as Assistant Secretary of Labor for employment and training during the Carter administration. He currently serves on the board of directors of Africare, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Advanced Technological Solutions, Inc., the Black Student Fund, the Michigan State University College of Social Sciences Board of Visitors and the Legislative Action Committee of the Public Securities Association.

Green earned a bachelor’s degree in social science and a master’s degree in sociology from Michigan State University; he also holds honorary doctorates from Michigan State University, Tougaloo College and Central State University.

The presentation is open to the public and is free. Because seating is limited, those who plan to attend are encouraged to call the Michigan Judicial Institute at (517) 373-7171.

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